



TILL THE FIESTA . . . Nick Mardesich's purse seiner, New Home II, stacking sardine net at Fisherman's Wharf, San Pedro, until season opens for the great fleet after seagoing pagant Oct. 2.

Fishing Fleets Get Ready For Annual Fiesta Parade

San Pedro's great fishing fleet—tops in the nation—and its thousands of rugged crewmen are beginning to clear the decks for their annual and stupendous moments of play—their Fishermen's Fiesta, Oct. 1 and 2.

And, playing as hard as they work, these rubber-booted stalwarts are going "all out" again for another gigantic parade of gorgeously decorated boats—a parade yearly acclaimed the third most photographed spectacle in America. These fishermen "go all out" literally by smothering their 80 to 90-foot boats, costing up to \$300,000, in

a riot of tinted papiermache blossoms so they look like floral islands to some 250,000 spectators.

Scores of such gaily caparisoned craft participate yearly. They win grand prizes, purses. The spectacle was a badge of fishermen's rejoicing that their sons were coming home from the late war. That was nine years ago. Today the extravaganza has grown so large the city and county and the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce have pitched in. But it still is the fishermen's fiesta, a healthy runner-up to the Rose Parade and still growing.

Queen Race Opening
Incidentally the fishermen's pretty maiden relatives will start registering at the chamber Aug. 15 for the Skipperette (queen) contest.

There always has been a religious significance to fishermen's fiestas ever since Christ gave Apostles James, John, Peter and Andrew advice on the sea of Galilee. Down through the centuries Old Country ancestors of San Pedro fishermen sought Divine blessings before they went to sea. A high church dignitary will invoke such solemn religious ceremony in a colorful pageant before the vessels go on parade. The blessing climaxes a procession of robed hierarchy and military to the boat-massed dock, and is preceded by solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for the fishermen at Mary Star of the Sea church. Msgr. George M. Scott, pastor, will be celebrant.

Starts at Noon
The blessing and boat parade will be at noon, Oct. 2 at berth 74, along the main channel in San Pedro's outer harbor. The paraders will cruise the waters of San Pedro, Wilmington and Long Beach while judges select the winners.

Interspersed into the two days of festivities will be free boat rides, carnival, community dancing along the half-mile wharf, folk dances by descendants of 39 nationalities who make up the port; booths where food of those nations will be served. There will be competition between fishermen for dexterity in net mending and rope splicing. There will be "open house" aboard naval ships nearby.

(ADVERTISEMENT)
Currants and gooseberries bear the best fruit on 2 and 3-year-old wood so you should aim your pruning to that end; at the end of three years have three or four canes each of 1, 2 and 3-year wood.

Twin Pontiac Now Offering Huge Savings

Once again the South Bay is entitled to a greater savings program on new automobiles than ever before, report the Pontiac Twins, Robert and Richard Greenwald, twin owners of Twin Pontiac, 505 Pacific Coast Hwy., Hermosa Beach.

Special arrangements have been completed, said the Twins, "for a \$217 down payment on any model 1955 Pontiac. This lower price includes the most expensive of the lowest priced Pontiacs."

Continuing, the Twins say "This down payment plan has been put into effect for those individuals who have the credit to buy a new car but don't have the necessary cash on hand." This new plan becomes effective today, Thursday, Aug. 11, 1955. The Twins further stated that it could be withdrawn without notice.

Berry Vines Need Proper Pruning Care

Undoubtedly you've been enjoying the fruits of your vines in the past summer months . . . but now's the time to begin thinking of future crops—and taking proper care of your berry vines.

It may be said of most berry vines, that it is the new wood on which the berries are borne—so pruning properly to allow room for new growth is very important, reminds the California Association of Nurserymen. This is true of blackberries and boysenberries. Of the same family, these vines, require the same treatment and must have growth renewal 100 per cent for each year. Following the harvesting of the fruit, prune down old canes and give new ones support.

Suggested supports for blackberry vines are:

1. cut down old canes and head the new shoots at five or six feet and fan them out, tying them to wires; laterals will start out and they should be headed back in early spring with a foot of growth left to be the bearing wood;
2. prune down the old canes and drape the new canes over or weave them through trellis wires. If you choose to grow your blackberries unsupported tip the new canes at two or three feet, heading back laterals in early spring but leaving one foot of growth to be bearing wood;

Currants and gooseberries bear the best fruit on 2 and 3-year-old wood so you should aim your pruning to that end; at the end of three years have three or four canes each of 1, 2 and 3-year wood.

Pruning is a very important gardening job—so if you have any questions be sure to consult with your nurseryman for the proper advice.

Lloyd B. Pick Taking Guard Basic Training

Pvt. Lloyd B. Pick, Jr., of 18415 Crenshaw Blvd., is one of 55 members of the 40th Armored Division, who began basic training at Ft. Ord last week, under a new Army plan for training National Guardsmen. Under the plan, some 12,000 Guardsmen will get their basic training in an intensive eight-week session rather than a year-long one-night-a-week basis.



A STITCH IN TIME . . . Pasquale DiLeva, 56-year-old San Pedro crew member of purse seiner Saint Louis, repairing a mackerel net. He says he's been fishing 48 years. Nets may be 180 feet deep, 1500 feet long, cost many thousands of dollars—and need repairing almost constantly.

Former THS Student Has Poem Printed

A poem entitled, "Death," written by Mary Coleen Draper who attended Torrance High School in her junior year during 1953-54, has been selected for publication in "Young America Sings," an anthology of Mountain State high school poetry.

Miss Draper's poem was selected as being one of the best poems from high schools in all western states. A student at White Pine, Nev., high school during her senior year, Miss Draper is the

daughter of Mrs. Erma Draper of White Pine and Sidney A. Draper of Santa Monica.

She is scheduled to report for active duty with the Women's Marine Corps in South Carolina next week for basic training. During her residence in Torrance, she lived with an aunt, Mrs. John F. Weaver of 1912 W. 218 St.

Women Vets Have Same GI Rights

By and large, women veterans have the same rights—and the same problems—as our ex-servicemen, according to Miss Helen K. Dill, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, a Community Chest Agency.

She observed that 400,000 women veterans are civilians today—not quite 2 per cent of all veterans. Some 310,000 of them served during World War II. Another 51,000 are Korea veterans, and about 39,000 were "yeomanettes," "Marine-ettes" and Army or Navy nurses during World War I.

There are 32,700 women veterans on the VA disability rolls, Miss Dill stated, of whom 8000 have received vocational rehabilitation training.

125,000 Trained
"Under the original GI Bill," she continued, "women are entitled to the same benefits as male veterans. Some 125,000 of them received some type of education or training. I don't know how many have requested GI loans, but I do know that 80 per cent of them are married, and, according to the VA, most of them picked veterans as their husbands."

"Women have served and are serving in all branches of the armed forces. They are in the WACs, WAVES, SPARS, and the Women Marines; they also served as Army and Navy nurses and as medical officers, physical therapists, and hospital dieticians."

WAACs Not Vets
Miss Dill explained that members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, known as the WAAC, who did not transfer to the Women's Army Corps in 1943 (unless prevented by disability) are not considered veterans, and are not entitled to

GI Bill privileges, although they have full hospital and medical rights for service-connected conditions.

AUG. 11, 1955

TORRANCE HERALD

Thirty-one

Miss Dill's office is located at 1822 Gramercy Ave., where she will assist with all veteran problems.

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